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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/786,810	02/25/2004	Jesus Benavides	ST01023 US CNT	3346
5487	7590	07/11/2006	EXAMINER	
ROSS J. OEHLER SANOFI-AVENTSI U.S. LLC 1041 ROUTE 202-206 MAIL CODE: D303A BRIDGEWATER, NJ 08807			CHONG, YONG SOO	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
				1617

DATE MAILED: 07/11/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/786,810	BENAVIDES ET AL.
	Examiner Yong S. Chong	Art Unit 1617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 May 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1,2,10,20,21,29,35 and 36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,2,10,20,21,29,35 and 36 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Status of the Application

This Office Action is in response to applicant's arguments filed on 5/18/2006. Claim(s) 3-9, 11-19, 22-28, 30-34 has/have been cancelled. Claim(s) 1-2, 10, 20-21, 29, 35-36 is/are pending. Claim(s) 10 has/have been amended. Claim(s) 1-2, 10, 20-21, 29, 35-36 is/are examined herein. Applicant's arguments have been fully considered and found to withdraw the double patenting rejection in light of the filed terminal disclaimer. The 103(a) rejection is maintained for reasons of record and is repeated below for Applicant's convenience.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in Graham vs John Deere Co., 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 1-2, 10, 20-21, 29, 35-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Achard et al. (US Patent 6,355,631 B1) in view of Durif et al. (US Patent 5,562,917).

The instant claims are directed to a combination of a CB1 antagonist azetidine derivative of formula I, specifically N-{1-[bis(4-chloro-phenyl)methyl]azetidine-3-yl}-N-(3,5-difluorophenyl)-methylsulfonamide, and levodopa.

Achard et al. teach a composition comprising azetidine derivatives of formula I, specifically N-{1-[bis(4-chloro-phenyl)methyl]azetidine-3-yl}-N-(3,5-difluorophenyl)-methylsulfonamide (col. 51, lines 22-23) for the treatment of Parkinson's disease (col. 14, line 50). The oral dosage is between 5 to 1000 mg per day with unit dosages ranging from 1 to 250 mg of active substance (col. 38, lines 20-24). The composition may include diluents and pharmaceutical acceptable solutions (col. 37, lines 32-47).

However, Achard et al. fail to disclose a specific combination with levodopa.

Durif et al. teach that the classic treatment of Parkinson's disease involves administration of levodopa (col. 1, lines 29-33).

Therefore, it would have been prima facie obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the claimed invention was made, to combine N-{1-[bis(4-chloro-phenyl)methyl]azetidine-3-yl}-N-(3,5-difluorophenyl)-methylsulfonamide and levodopa.

A person of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to make this combination because of the therapeutic additive effects for the treatment of Parkinson's disease.

"It is *prima facie* obvious to combine two compositions each of which is taught by the prior art to be useful for the same purpose, in order to form a third composition to be used for the very same purpose.... The idea of combining them flows logically from their having been individually taught in the prior art." *In re Kerkhoven*, 626 F.2d 846, 850, 205 USPQ 1069, 1072 (CCPA 1980).

Response to Arguments

Applicant claims to have obviated this rejection because a terminal disclaimer on US Patent 6,355,631 B1 was filed on 5/18/2006. Examiner respectfully reminds Applicant that a terminal disclaimer can only overcome double patenting rejections. Examiner does suggest to the Applicant that since US Patent 6,355,631 B1 is a 102(e) reference in a 103(a) rejection, the Applicant can claim common ownership at the time the invention was made.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yong S. Chong whose telephone number is (571)-272-8513. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9-6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, SREENI PADMANABHAN can be reached on (571)-272-0629. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571)-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


SHENGJUN WANG
PRIMARY EXAMINER

YSC